



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fincastle, Virginia

10:00 a.m.

December 14, 2025

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Service of Holy Communion, Rite I

PRELUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. M. Hayes

OPENING HYMN

HARK! THE GLAD SOUND

tune #72

- 1 Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes,
the Savior promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved Name.

Hark! the glad sound! the Savior comes, #71 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Philip Doddridge (1702-1751). Music: *Bristol*, from *The Whole Booke of Psalmes*, 1621.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 323

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 323

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE SUMMATION OF THE LAW

BCP 324

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. *Matthew 22:37-40*

KYRIE

Anna Preston

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 159

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

CHILDREN'S HOMILY

THE REV. G. WILLIS LOGAN

People Sit

A READING FROM **ISAIAH 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
 and it shall be called the Holy Way;
 the unclean shall not travel on it,
 but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
 No lion shall be there,
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
 they shall not be found there,
 but the redeemed shall walk there.
 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing;
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146:4-9

BCP 803

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 **Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; ***
 who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
 and food to those who hunger.
- 7 **The Lord sets the prisoners free;**
 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
 the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous;
 the Lord cares for the stranger; *
 he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 **The Lord shall reign for ever, ***
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
 Hallelujah!

GRADUAL HYMN

ON JORDAN'S BANK (vs. 1, 2, 5)

#76

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
 announces that the Lord is nigh;
 awake and hearken, for he brings
 glad tidings of the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
 make straight the way for God within,
 and let each heart prepare a home
 where such a mighty guest may come.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
whose advent doth thy people free;
whom with the Father we adore
and Holy Spirit evermore.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry, #76 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalisches Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW 11:2-11

[Before the Gospel, “**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**” After the Gospel, “**Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**”]

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

People Sit

THE SERMON

JAKE WEBB

People Stand

THE NICENE CREED (ALL)

BCP 327

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PARISH PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world, remembering especially all
on our Pews News Prayer list.
(The congregation responds with "Jesus, hear our prayer".)

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 330

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

BCP 332

Celebrant:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with
heartly repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

COMFORTABLE WORDS

BCP 332

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

THE PEACE & WELCOME

BCP 332

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Rocking

arr. I. Good

People Stand

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow

#380 (v. 3)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host:

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, RITE I, PRAYER 2

BCP 340

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

SURSUM CORDA

BCP 340

SANCTUS

Anna Preston

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 336

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

FRACTION

BCP 337

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

AGNUS DEI

Anna Preston

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

BCP 337

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP 338

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (All Pray Together)

[from the South African Book of Common Prayer (1989).]

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.

May your body and blood be my food and drink.

May your passion and death be my strength and life.

Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.

May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.

Let me not run from the love which you offer but hold me safe from the forces of evil.

On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.

Keep calling to me until that day comes when, with your saints, I may praise you for ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

arr. M. Hayes

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 339

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

WATCHMAN, TELL US OF THE NIGHT

#640

**1 Watchman, tell us of the night,
what its signs of promise are.**

**Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height,
see that glory-beaming star.**

Watchman, does its beauteous ray
aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
promised day of Israel.

- 2 Watchman, tell us of the night;
higher yet that star ascends.
Traveler, blessedness and light,
peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

- 3 Watchman, tell us of the night,
for the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease;
hie thee to thy quiet home.
Traveler, lo! the Prince of Peace,
lo! the Son of God is come!

Watchman, tell us of the night, #640 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903).

DISMISSAL

BCP 340

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. M. Hayes

St. Mark's Weekly Prayer List

Prayer requests for individuals and families are left on for 4 Sundays unless requested. If you wish for someone to be left on longer, please let the office know at the time you make the request.

IN OUR ARMED FORCES: Patrick Funkhouser; Erin Funkhouser; Nathan Bradley; Mason Alexander; Reeve Alexander; Jimmy Brown; Eric Burton; Ali Taha; Griffith Wood; Logan Ching; and First Responders.

THANKSGIVING: For those celebrating birthdays this week:

Danielle Plumb (12/14); Jenine Culligan (12/15); Phil Coffey (12/17); Paul Murphy (12/18).

SEMINARIANS: Parker Hughes.

THOSE IN NEED:

Danielle Alexander
Carol Anderson
Jason Christian Bayer
The Rev. Sue Bentley
Cousin Beth
John Beverley
Lucile Bondurant
The Rev. Bob Brodie
Kris Browning
Adam Burkley
Gabrielle Clouser
Marla Cook
Angela Coon
Cora
Jacob Crawford
Jeremiah Crawford
Suzanne Cronise
Bryce Dalton
Nonie Diebold
Connie Diez
Josh diPalma
Carma Duffy
Christine E.
Evelyn Edwards
Claire Ferguson

Brooke Forney
Chelsea G. H.
Chuck Geiger
Crofton Held
Pat Honts
Tommy Hunter
Meg Johnson
Ed Johnston
Sharon LaVonne Kidwell
Stephanie Keith
Yvonne Killers
Allen Layman
Helen Madine-Gregory
Si Mandros
Darlene Martin
Mary
Laura Holt McCann
Ella Mitchell
Joe Mix
Liz Moore
Charley Neil
Edward Neil
Matthew Neil
Penny Neil
Judy Newbern

Marie Nganele
David Ostrowski
Gary Overbay
Janet P.
Doug Paysour
Roderick Plenge
Sis Proffitt
Roman
Brook Roncinske
Mario Saade
Savannah
Sue Spickard
Al Suite
Suzanne
Mike Thompson
Sherry Vinson
Virginia
Krystal Weaver
Charlie Webb
Jerry Webb
Gary Welch
Chad Whitaker
Denise Williamson
Bruce Wilsie
Kim Wyrick

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Dean Wilkerson; Bruce Edward Clouser.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING: Wilkerson family and Anna Talbot Guillote; Clouser, Cody, Gillies, James and Cook families.

St. Mark's Prayer Ministries

Willis and Jake are available to talk and pray: call, email or text them.

We Care Ministry: A prayer and service ministry for St. Mark's

Contact: Carole Geiger (geiger.caroleb@gmail.com)

Prayer Chain: Emergency situations contact Susan Hays by phone (540) 884-2555

Parish Activities – Week of December 14, 2025

Sunday, December 14 – The Third Sunday of Advent

9:00am - Adult Education class in the Education room – *Advent Begins in the Dark*

10:00am - Holy Communion, Rite I

Monday, December 15

12:00pm - Bridge Group meets

Tuesday, December 16

6:00pm - Vestry Meeting

7:00pm - Open AA

Wednesday, December 17

7:30pm - **Advent Devotions: Visio Divina** co-
led by Jake Webb & Jenine Culligan on Zoom
(*uses Evening Prayer link*)

Thursday, December 18

11:30am - Blue Christmas Service

Friday, December 19

Office Closed

Saturday, December 20

9:30am - Food Pantry

7:00pm - Open AA meeting

Serving Us Today

CELEBRANT: THE REV. G. WILLIS LOGAN

PREACHER: JAKE WEBB

LEM/INTERCESSOR: KATE PARISH

2ND CHALICE BEARER: MIKE PARISH

LECTOR: ?

ACOLYTE: LUKE LAYMAN

MUSICIAN: ANNA PRESTON

ALTAR GUILD: MICHELLE COOK, SUSAN HAYS

COUNTERS: JENINE CULLIGAN, TBD

USHERS: TEAM PENNY NEIL

The Rev. G. Willis Logan, Rector

Jake Webb, Assistant to the Rector

Gina Painter, Office Manager/Vestry Clerk

Jim Johnston, Treasurer

Tommy Hunter, Organist Emeritus

Anna Preston, Music Minister

Allison Caldwell & Ana Uotinen, Children/Youth Ministers

Vestry (Lay Leadership)

Charlotte Hagan (Senior Warden) * Phil Coffey (Junior Warden)

John Alexander * Michelle Cook * Jenine Culligan

Meggan Laucher * Mike Parish

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